



**PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
Friday, June 5, 2020  
ZOOM**

[Public Safety Policy Committee Slides](#)

**Staff:** Charles Harvey, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities  
Caroline Cirrincione, Policy Analyst, League of California Cities

**General Briefing:**

In accordance with the customary practice of convening all policy committee members for a general briefing prior to the start of policy committee meetings, the League advocacy team compiled a [General Briefing Update Document](#), which includes the latest on federal and state legislative matters affecting cities within their respective policy areas.

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

League President John Dunbar, Mayor, Yountville, welcomed everyone to the second installment of virtual policy committee meetings. He thanked all of the Policy Committee members for the extra effort they give on behalf of California's cities. President Dunbar explained it is a challenging time for cities as they incur significant expenses associated with the public health crisis. He highlighted that the League is calling on state and federal governments to provide direct and flexible funding to all cities, and will be advocating for resources needed to respond to, and recover from, this pandemic.

President Dunbar also addressed the brutal death of George Floyd. He explained that as local leaders, everyone has the power – and responsibility – to confront the underlying racism and civil injustice still present within communities. He said the League would be setting aside time during each policy committee meeting to talk about two key questions on equity and justice. The first question was, "In order to help city leaders focus on equity and justice in our communities, what specific policy issues should we advance in your committee?" The second question was, "What resources do cities need to respond to what is happening in our communities?" President Dunbar explained that the discussions generated by these questions would help inform the League's work in the coming weeks and months to provide the support necessary to make real and positive changes.

President Dunbar introduced Carolyn Coleman, League Executive Director. Ms. Coleman thanked everyone for leading in one of the most challenging times in recent history. She explained that California's cities have been models for the nation, and their actions in response to COVID-19 have saved lives. Ms. Coleman said that besides developing policy recommendations on ballot measures and legislation, the League is asking the policy committees to have a discussion on President Dunbar's two key questions related to equity and justice. Ms. Coleman highlighted that without the committee members' engagement, the League wouldn't be the strong organization it is.

Chair Marty Simonoff, Mayor, City of Brea welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

**II. Public Comment**

Chair Simonoff asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

### III. COVID-19 Update

League staff provided a COVID-19 update, which highlighted resources such as the League's COVID-19 dedicated [webpage](#), [email](#), and [webinar series](#). League staff also gave an overview of the potential impacts that COVID-19 may have on key state legislative and budget deadlines. Notably, COVID-19 response and recovery, along with issues such as housing, homelessness, public safety, and wildfires, will likely continue to be legislative priorities for this session, while other legislative priorities may be delayed until next session.

Additionally, League staff provided an overview of the League's [Support Local Recovery](#) campaign. This highlighted the campaign's goals, which includes securing \$7 billion from the state government and \$500 billion from the federal government in direct and flexible funding to support critical city services. League staff also provided some key takeaways from League's fiscal analysis, which illustrate that all cities, regardless of size and geography, are being impacted by COVID-19, with over 90 percent of cities reporting that they are considering cutting/furloughing city staff or reducing public services. The League continues to work closely with its federal lobbying team and the National League of Cities regarding a potential fourth stimulus package.

### IV. Budget Update

League staff provided an update on the Governor's May Revision proposed budget. The budget proposal has been scaled down to \$203 billion from the \$222.2 billion proposed in January. The focus of the budget is the protection of California's core values: public education, public health, public safety, and people hit hardest by COVID-19. The May Revision proposes to use \$16.2 billion in the Budget Stabilization Account (Rainy Day Fund) over three years. The League's budget analysis can be found [here](#).

### V. Legislative Update

Chair Simonoff introduced Charles Harvey, Legislative Representative, to provide a legislative update on bills of interest to the Public Safety Policy Committee. Mr. Harvey began by addressing bills that will not be moving forward this legislative session in light of a consolidated legislative calendar due to COVID-19. He then transitioned to touching on several key pieces of legislation that are continuing to move through the legislative process related to cannabis, Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs), emergency vehicles, and gambling.

Mr. Harvey specifically highlighted [AB 2481](#) (Lackey) related to testing sexual assault forensic evidence. Mr. Harvey explained that he had intended to present this measure for the committee's consideration, however, the bill is no longer moving forward as it did not make it out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Mr. Harvey then introduced Assembly Member Tom Lackey, the author of AB 2481, to speak to the committee about his bill.

#### **Speaker: Assembly Member Tom Lackey:**

Assembly Member Lackey began by expressing his appreciation for being able to speak to the committee. He explained it is a very difficult time to be in leadership, but that local government is where work gets done. Assembly Member Lackey emphasized his disappointment that AB 2481 will not be moving forward this session. He said that he will reintroduce the bill next year. Assembly Member Lackey said there are over 10,000 rape

kits sitting in California's labs that have not been tested. He explained he is trying to ensure those rape kits are followed up on.

Assembly Member Lackey then began to address the civil unrest that has resulted in the wake of the death of George Floyd. He explained that he worked for the California Highway Patrol for 28 years, and has been very dismayed at the way that trust has been eroded. Assembly Member Lackey emphasized that now is the time for change, and that there needs to be oversight to build trust. He closed in saying that the Legislature will be proposing solutions to ensure that all people are treated with dignity and held accountable for misconduct.

## **VI. Legislative Agenda**

Mr. Harvey turned to the committee's legislative action item, [AB 2617](#) (Gabriel), which would require California to honor Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) that are issued by other states. After providing an overview of the bill, Mr. Harvey invited guest speakers to present both in support and opposition of the bill.

**Speaker in Support:** Abram Diaz, Legislative Director, Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel  
Mr. Diaz explained that AB 2617 (Gabriel) is aiming to help save lives by ensuring that California honors lawful GVROs from other states. Mr. Diaz said the Legislature passed [AB 164](#) (Cervantes) last year, which made critical progress in this space. He said that AB 2617 will build upon this legislation, extending firearm prohibitions for out of state GVROs.

**Speaker in Opposition:** Kathy Sher, Legislative Attorney, American Civil Liberties Union

Ms. Sher explained that GVROs can be issued without proving there has been any prior act. She said that while many states have passed GVRO laws, different standards are applied, with other state laws varying in terms of the evidentiary standards required. Ms. Sher argued GVRO laws are new and untested laws, and that she wants to ensure these laws are applied fairly and consistently.

Upon the conclusion of the guest speakers' presentations, a motion was made to support AB 2617 with the caveat that Assembly Member Gabriel's staff continues to work with the American Civil Liberties Union to address their concerns. The motion passed.

## **VII. Equity and Justice Discussion**

At the beginning of the Public Safety Policy Committee meeting, a motion was made to agendize a discussion about developing a resolution for annual conference related to revoking the state's zero bail policy. A lengthy discussion ensued, with some committee members reiterating the issues associated with zero bail, and other members explaining it was inappropriate to be discussing a resolution related to zero bail in light of the recent death of George Floyd. Ultimately, the motion was withdrawn.

A second motion was also made to agendize a discussion about the development of a proposed statement or resolution concerning police violence, the death of George Floyd, and a call to action for cities. The motion passed.

At the beginning of the equity and justice discussion, the committee considered proposing a resolution for consideration at the League's Annual Conference. Ultimately,

it was decided that waiting until the October conference would be too late, and that it would be better to prepare a statement for consideration by the League's Board at its upcoming June meeting. A statement was proposed for the committee to consider, which contained six core provisions.

The committee had a lengthy discussion about the proposed statement, and made several minor changes. The committee discussed possible additions to the statement, such as support for the League's Executive Director, Carolyn Coleman's statement on the death of George Floyd, and language recognizing the law enforcement departments and officers who uphold their duties. The committee decided not to include these additions. Several committee members expressed that nothing in the proposed statement would vilify police departments or officers, rather it would offer a framework to consider structural reforms to ensure the safety of communities of color. The committee also discussed how the Public Safety Policy Committee, in particular, has a responsibility to addressing these issues, as it is the purpose of the committee to focus on matters related to public safety and policing.

Ultimately, the committee approved the following statement for consideration by the League Board:

1. Condemn the murder of George Floyd as horrific, tragic and unacceptable, not only in Minneapolis, but in any community in this country.
2. We denounce violence in all its forms; including against people and property, but recognize the urgency and significance of this moment, and call for special attention to be given to violence against black lives, and call on all cities and communities in California to create spaces dedicated to listening to and taking the action steps necessary to address the concerns raised by citizen-based movements, such as Black Lives Matter.
3. Cities must lead by working toward structural reforms that build public trust for law enforcement by focusing on the action steps that will ensure black, brown, indigenous, and other communities of color are safe and equal members of society.
4. Call on all cities to advance policies that promote the hiring of police officers who reflect the communities they serve.
5. Provide greater access, transparency, and community oversight to issues of police misconduct as a means of building trust and restoring justice to impacted communities.
6. Ask all cities to adopt the pillars of 21st Century Policing and to support review of existing policies and practices to ensure the equitable protection of the freedoms and rights of all citizens.

A motion to approve this statement for consideration at the League's June Board Meeting was made. The motion passed.

**Next Meeting:** Staff will notify committee members after August 17 if the policy committee will be meeting in October.